

Testimony Submitted By Suzanne Bates, Policy Director for the Yankee Institute for Public Policy to the Commerce Committee in support of HB 5660

February 26, 2015

The Yankee Institute for Public Policy is a Connecticut think tank that develops and advances policy solutions to promote a smart, limited government; fairness for taxpayers; and an open road to opportunity for all the people of our state.

We support HB 5660, which would require that businesses that receive economic development assistance from the state use that assistance for the purpose originally intended by the state.

The state has a variety of mechanisms to assist businesses in the state. Frequently the public hears about how this assistance is used by businesses who promise to spend money and bring jobs to the state, but then these promises go unfulfilled.

It is our position that the state should not fund investments in companies, but instead should leave that up to private investors willing and able to bear the risk.

When the state uses taxpayer dollars to fund businesses in an effort to spur economic development, it is then the state's responsibility to do all it can to protect those tax dollars and to make sure they are being used for the public good.

This bill would be a positive step in that direction.